

Alaska NAEP Newsletter

Ten Years of NAEP in Alaska

Reveal Gains in Achievement



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To learn more about NAEP in
Alaska:

Alaska NAEP Website
[https://education.alaska.gov/
tls/assessment/naep.html](https://education.alaska.gov/tls/assessment/naep.html)

See inside for detailed results
of the NAEP 2013
administration.

In a new, interactive online
format, *The Nation's Report
Card: 2013 Mathematics and
Reading* makes exploring
student achievement data
easier than ever before. Visit
[http://nationsreportcard.gov/
reading_math_2013](http://nationsreportcard.gov/reading_math_2013) to view the
interactive report card site.

Fall 2014

The National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, also known as the Nation's Report Card is . . . "the country's most consistent measure of K-12 progress."

Washington Post, November 7, 2013

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has been given in Alaska every other year for grades 4 and 8 since 2003. Patterns for Alaska show that, compared to the nation, Alaska has been weakest in grade 4 reading and strongest in grade 8 mathematics.

Charts on page two show the percentages of students at or above Proficient for Alaska and the nation since 2003.

The bullets below summarize the growth in percentages for students at or above Proficient since 2003.

Changes in percentage at or above Proficient from 2003 to 2013:

Grade 4 Reading

- Alaska: no statistical difference
- Nation: 4 percentage points increase

Grade 8 Reading

- Alaska: 4 percentage points increase
- Nation: 4 percentage points increase

Grade 4 Math

- Alaska: 7 percentage points increase
- Nation: 10 percentage points increase

Grade 8 Math

- Alaska: 3 percentage points increase
- Nation: 7 percentage points increase

NAEP data shows that ethnic groups in Alaska with higher percentages of English Language Learners (ELLs) than the national average perform below the national average for that ethnic group.

Ethnic groups with the same or lower percentage of ELLs than the national average do the same as or better than the national average for that ethnic group.

Alaska also has a higher percentage of ELLs than many states. See the inside pages for more information about ELLs.

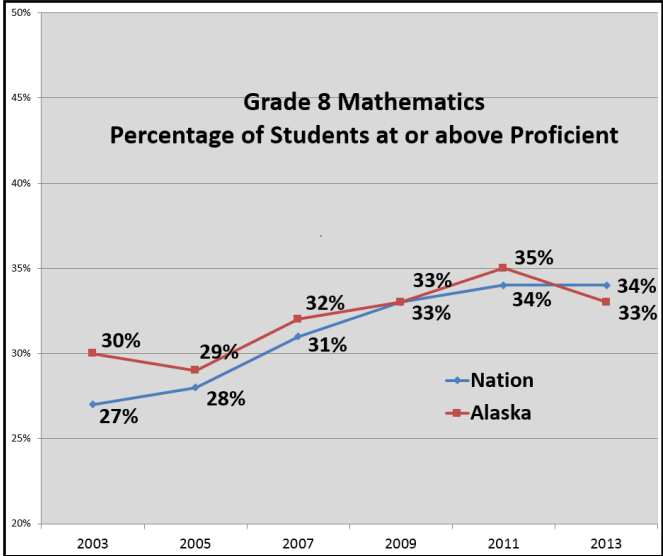
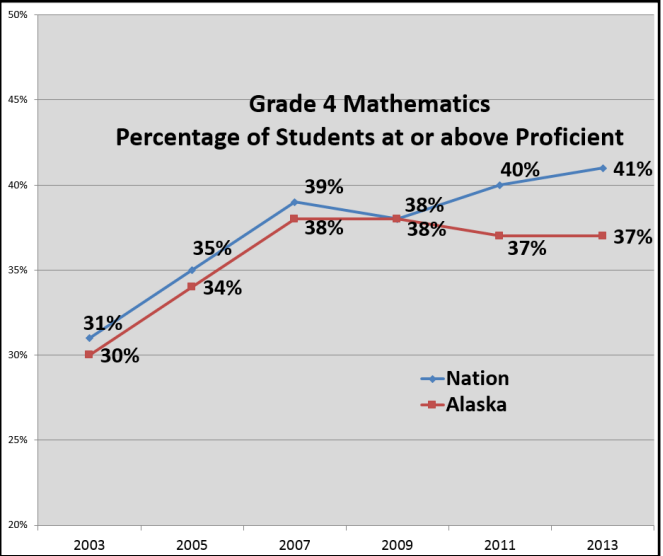
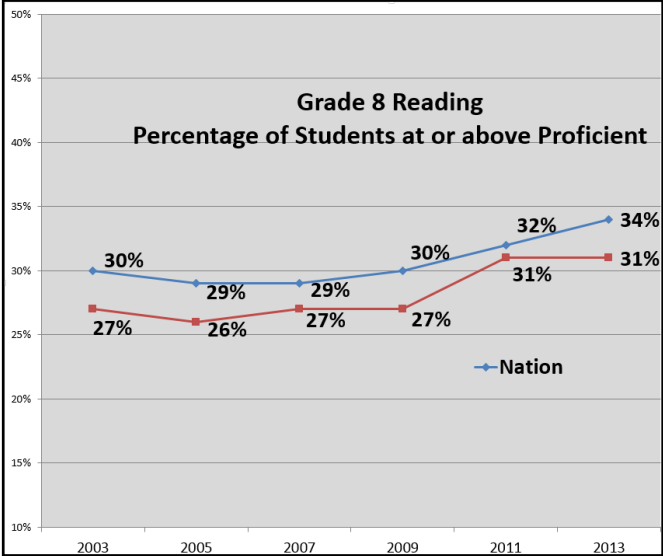
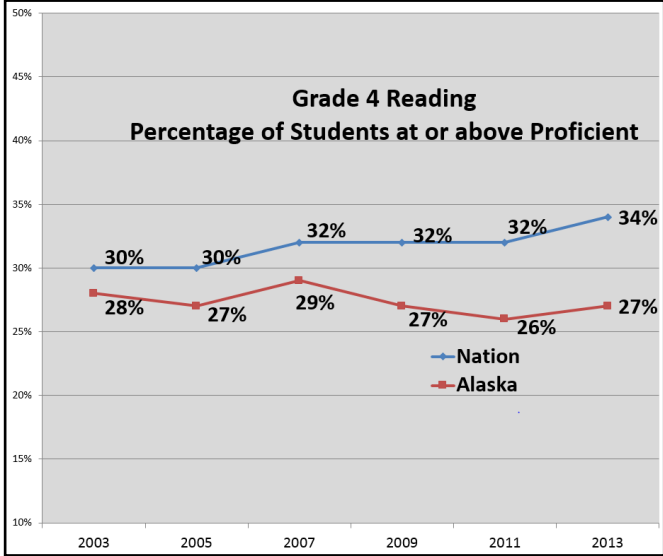
Professional Development Opportunity Uses NAEP Data to Focus on ELL Students

The Department of Education & Early Development has online professional learning modules available on various topics at [https://education.alaska.gov/akstandards/
standards/OnlineLearning_HyperlinkedChart.pdf](https://education.alaska.gov/akstandards/standards/OnlineLearning_HyperlinkedChart.pdf).

An English Language Learner (ELL) module uses NAEP data to show the need to focus instruction on the needs of ELLs. The module shows resources teachers can use for ELL students. The link for this professional learning module is [http://
www.livebinders.com/shelf/view/126846](http://www.livebinders.com/shelf/view/126846).



Charts Shows NAEP Percentage Proficient Since 2003



Ethnic Percentages of English Language Learners		
Grade 4 Reading	Nation	Alaska
White	4%	6%
Black	3%	2%
Hispanic	81%	9%
Asian/Pac Isl	10%	29%
Am Ind/AK Native	1%	54%

Alaska is among the states with the highest percentage of English Language Learners (ELLs), as the table at right shows.

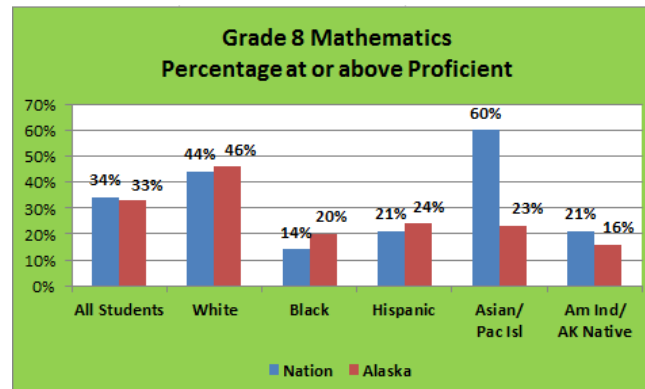
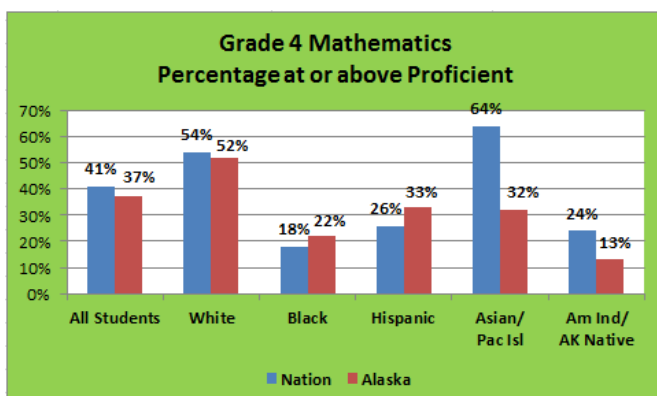
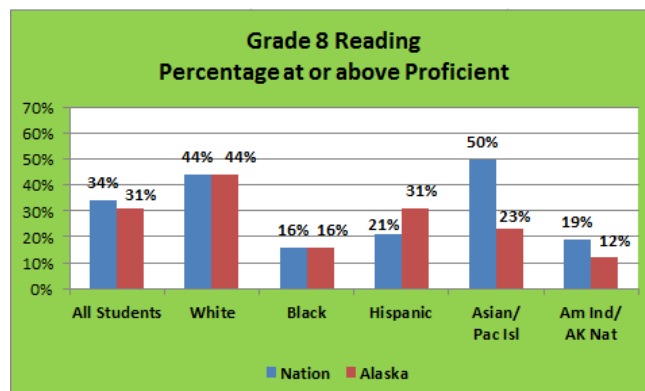
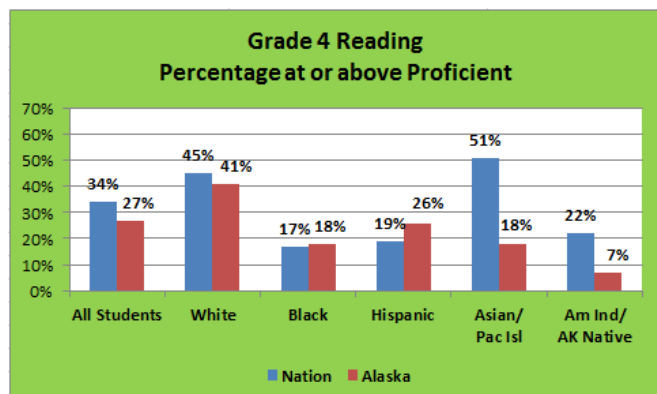
The table above shows the ethnic make up of ELLs. Nationally, about 80% of ELLs are Hispanic. In Alaska, about half of ELLs are American Indian/Alaska Native. Asian/Pacific Islander students in Alaska make up about 30% of ELLs, compared to 10% nationally.

States/Jurisdictions with Highest Percentages of English Language Learners			
Grade 4		Grade 8	
California	25%	New Mexico	13%
Nevada	22%	California	12%
Texas	22%	Alaska	11%
New Mexico	18%	Hawaii	10%
Alaska	14%	Colorado	8%
Colorado	14%	Kansas	8%
Kansas	13%	Nevada	7%
Oregon	13%	Texas	7%
Nation	10%	Arkansas	6%
Florida	10%	New York	6%
Massachusetts	10%	Nation	5%
Washington	9%	District of Columbia	5%
Arkansas	8%	Illinois	5%
Illinois	8%	Massachusetts	5%

Achievement Levels Help to Interpret Data

The graphs below show the 2013 NAEP results for all students and by ethnicity. NAEP results are reported by average scale scores and by achievement levels (Basic, Proficient, and Advanced). Achievement levels can be helpful as they may be easier to interpret than average scale scores. They also are subjective as they are judgments about where students need to score to be considered Basic, Proficient, or Advanced. For the NAEP, the Proficient level is defined as indicating students "have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter."

Scale score results for NAEP 2013 are at <https://education.alaska.gov/tls/assessment/naep.html>.



Demographics Provide Context for NAEP Data

Ethnic Percentages of Students		
Grade 4 Reading	Nation	Alaska
White	51%	47%
Black	15%	4%
Hispanic	25%	7%
Asian/Pac Isl	5%	11%
Am Ind/AK Native	1%	24%
Two or more races	3%	8%

Demographics are important to consider when making state-to-state or state-to-nation comparisons with NAEP data. Achievement gaps exist between racial groups and looking at the performance of ethnic groups provides more context about a state's performance on the NAEP.

The tables to the left for the 2013 NAEP show that Alaska's percentage of White students is close to the national average. Alaska differs most from the nation in the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native students. Alaska has the highest percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native students of any state.

In Alaska, American Indian/Alaska Native and Asian/Pacific Islander students make up about 80% of students who are ELLs, as shown by the tables on page two.

NAEP Sample Carefully Chosen

NAEP does not report data for individual students or schools, so it is not necessary for all schools and students in a state to be assessed. This lessens the burden of testing in a state overall. However, states with small populations, like Alaska, require a higher percentage of schools be selected to participate in NAEP in order for the minimum student sample size to be reached.

For the NAEP 2015 administration, the usual sample size per state will be about 2,200 students for each grade and subject. To select schools for the NAEP administration, schools are put into a carefully arranged ordered list. The factors that go into creating the list include location, ethnicity of the students in the schools, and achievement data. This ensures that the sample represents the demographics of state.

The sample of schools is selected systematically from the ordered list. The probability of a school being selected is related to size. Large schools are more likely to be selected than small ones. Schools with more than 1% of the state's enrollment for a grade will always be chosen for the sample.

If a school has more students at a specific grade than needed for the NAEP sample, students will be chosen at random to participate in the NAEP. Only students are chosen at random to participate in the NAEP, not the schools

NAEP Math Questions Can Help to Illustrate Standards

NAEP releases questions after every administration and includes student performance data for each question.

NAEP questions that can be used to illustrate some of the new mathematics standards are posted at

<https://education.alaska.gov/tls/assessment/naep.html>.

All of the NAEP questions for various subjects can be accessed at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmlrx/>.



Articles Featuring NAEP . . .

Study Eyes 4th Graders' Readiness for Writing Tests on Computer
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/08/06/37naep.h33.html>

NAEP Tech., Engineering Test Brings Interactivity
Results from testing will arrive in 2016
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/05/14/31engineering.h33.html>

Measuring Up in Mathematics: What's the Right Measure?
<http://www.quickanded.com/2014/06/measuring-up-in-mathematics-whats-the-right-measure.html>

ASCD Policy Points: Test Scores ≠ Economic Performance
<http://www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/siteASCD/publications/policypoints/Test-Scores-Economic-Performance-Aug-14.pdf>

NAEP Will Change To Technology-Based Assessments

The 2015 NAEP administration is planned to be the last one that will be a paper and pencil test. Like many states, NAEP will be transitioning to using technology-based items.

NAEP has already done ground-breaking work with the Technology Engineering Literacy assessment and Interactive Computer Tasks for science.

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/tel/>

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pubs/main2009/2012468.asp>

The 2017 administration will be administered via tablets. As with the current assessments, NAEP field staff will bring all necessary equipment and material to schools, including the tablets.

Under the leadership of the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Assessment Governing Board, NAEP continues to be a leader in innovations and research for improving assessment.

To learn more about NAEP in Alaska, go to the **Alaska NAEP Website**:

<https://education.alaska.gov/tls/assessment/naep.html>